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Draft report

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Addendum

Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 13 and 14 March 2018, the Commission considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

"Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:

(a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(c) Working methods of the Commission;

(d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters."

2. For its consideration of item 4, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (E/CN.7/2018/2-E/CN.15/2018/2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2018/3-E/CN.15/2018/3);

(c) Note by the Executive Director on the adjustments to the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2018/12-E/CN.15/2018/14).

3. An introductory statement was made by the Director of the Division for Management.

4. Statements were made by the representatives of Iraq, China, Switzerland, Japan, the United States of America, Brazil, the Republic of Korea and Thailand. The

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observer for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also made a statement.

A. Deliberations

5. Several speakers expressed appreciation for the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC. They noted that the working group served as an essential mechanism to enhance the transparency and accountability of the Office and to enable a constructive dialogue between Member States and UNODC.

6. A speaker expressed satisfaction with the operational support provided by UNODC and the Commission in the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, and, in particular, with the approach followed, which took into account each of the seven thematic chapters contained in the outcome document of the special session and involved all the relevant stakeholders. The speaker also noted the importance of the thematic discussions held in Vienna between January and November 2017, the good practices portal on the website dedicated to the follow-up to the special session and the two regional workshops on the implementation of the outcome document, held in La Paz and Port of Spain.

7. A number of speakers made reference to the importance of technical cooperation and, in particular, the technical assistance provided by UNODC to requesting countries, on the basis of their priorities, in addressing the world drug problem. Reference was also made to the Office's central role in global efforts to address the world drug problem, in view of its unique expertise and capabilities.

8. Several speakers expressed concern regarding the difficult financial situation faced by UNODC in view of the considerable decrease in general purpose funds and the concurrent increase in special purpose funds. Support was expressed for the Office's efforts to address the situation. One speaker noted that UNODC should not become a donor-driven organization, as that would have a negative impact on the establishment of priorities and the ownership of its core mandates, which should be financed from the regular budget.

9. Several speakers expressed support for the adjustments made by UNODC to the consolidated budget for the biennium 2018–2019 and, in that regard, welcomed the proposal to allocate programme support costs in a more flexible manner. UNODC was encouraged to continue its efforts to increase transparency in its dialogue with Member States during the budget formulation and decision-making process.

10. Several speakers mentioned the need for a broader, more flexible and more transparent use of programme support cost funds at headquarters and field offices, as appropriate, and noted that such an approach would help to maintain the delivery of UNODC activities, including in the field. Reference was also made to the need for closer coordination between headquarters and field offices, with the aim of avoiding duplication of projects and promoting efficient and effective management.

11. UNODC was encouraged to continue to evaluate and report on challenges with regard to the viability of field offices, project delivery and administrative practices, in particular full cost recovery implementation. One speaker noted that full cost recovery could bring stability to the financial situation of UNODC, while another speaker referred to the increase in administrative costs charged to projects, which could undermine the Office's competitiveness vis-à-vis other organizations.

12. Several speakers expressed support for the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC Strategy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (2018–2021), and stressed that the Office should make progress towards mainstreaming gender into its programmes. One speaker congratulated UNODC on the establishment of the new Global Programme on Gender Equality and the

Empowerment of Women in the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC, and expressed interest in seeing more work done in the areas addressed by the Programme.

13. Several speakers welcomed the efforts being made by UNODC to achieve gender parity, with one speaker noting in particular the need to increase the number of women at the senior level. Furthermore, one speaker noted the importance for the Office of achieving 50/50 gender parity, while bearing in mind Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations.

14. Several speakers highlighted the importance of ensuring equitable geographic distribution among UNODC staff members and urged the Office to enhance its efforts in that regard. One speaker expressed concern regarding the human resources management of UNODC, while welcoming the increased openness of the Secretariat to discussing the issue. The speaker expressed hope that the Secretariat would continue to seek ways to improve the Office's recruitment policies and to actively reach out to qualified candidates from developing countries. It was noted that gender parity and equitable geographic distribution should be fundamental objectives of the recruitment policies of the Office.

15. One speaker expressed support for the reforms undertaken by the Secretary-General. The speaker referred to the vital role that UNODC could play in the success of those reforms and to the need to take difficult decisions, when necessary.

16. One speaker expressed support for the proposal by the Secretary-General to reinforce and further enhance exchanges between United Nations entities, in particular in monitoring progress towards achieving Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals. The speaker also referred to the need to enhance exchanges and coherence between the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office at Geneva and invited UNODC to consider reinforcing and developing such collaboration in the context of its strategic and financial planning.

17. In addition, one speaker encouraged UNODC to provide additional information on its planned publications, the status of its publications, and information sources used in their preparation, and called on UNODC to enhance its engagement with Member States in that regard.

B. Action taken by the Commission

18. At its 6th meeting, on 14 March 2018, the Commission adopted a resolution entitled "Budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme" (for the text of the resolution, see Chap. I, sect. C, resolution [...]).